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LEXINGTON TERRACE GANG MEMBERS SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON

Baltimore, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that today United States District Court Judge Catherine C. Blake sentenced Keon D. Moses, age 21, to life in prison plus 10 years, and Michael Lafayette Taylor, age 20, to life in prison, both of Baltimore, Maryland, in connection with their convictions in a federal drug conspiracy case involving multiple murders. There is no possibility of parole in the federal prison system.

Following 4 months of trial, Moses was convicted on April 1, 2004 of: conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine; and four counts of use of a firearm in relation to a drug conspiracy, specifically, the murder of Gregory Spain on September 23, 2001, the murder of Ronald Harris on September 23, 2001, the shooting of Charles Brockington III on September 23, 2001, and the murder of Robert McManus on February 22, 2002. Taylor was convicted of: conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine; use of a firearm in relation to a drug conspiracy, specifically, the murder of Robert McManus on February 22, 2002; and witness tampering.

The defendants were indicted in September 2002 as members of a violent drug conspiracy in the Lexington Terrace neighborhood in West Baltimore. The indictment was the result of an extensive

investigation into the drug trafficking and associated violence in and around that neighborhood. Testimony from cooperating coconspirators and numerous other witnesses, along with evidence from various related state arrests of the defendants, established that the Lexington Terrace group engaged in a wide variety of criminal offenses to protect its territory and its members, including narcotics trafficking, murders and attempted murders, witness tampering, arson, and armed robbery. In addition to the specific verdicts in the case relating to the murders of Spain, Harris, and McManus, the government presented evidence at trial and at the post-trial sentencing phase of the defendants' participation in the murders of Cortez Bailey on June 27, 2000; Vance Beasley on March 21, 2002; Travis Burley on April 1, 2002; Kevin James on June 11, 1999; and Derek Hamlin and Kiari Cromwell on December 23, 2001.

Co-defendant Aaron DeMarco Foster, age 24, of Baltimore Maryland, who was convicted of conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine, witness tampering, carjacking, and use of a firearm in relation to the carjacking, is facing a maximum penalty of life imprisonment. He will be sentenced by the U.S. District Court Judge Catherine C. Blake on Monday, July 26, 2004 at 10:00 a.m.

"One by one, we are dismantling the most violent drug gangs that threaten the safety of our communities," said United States Attorney Thomas M. DiBiagio. "Life sentences as imposed by the court, without the possibility of parole under the federal prison system, ensure that these criminals stay off the streets."

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Baltimore City Police Department homicide detectives, the Housing Authority Police Force, and the Baltimore County Police Department. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Andrea L. Smith and Stephanie A. Gallagher.